FDR Stabbers Hide Behind 'Dirt Farmer'

PM 5/14/44

Unauthorized Names Used by GOP Leaders Of Trenton Group

By Edmund Scott

PM Exclusive

A new and mysterious anti-Roosevelt organization called Four Freedoms on the Home Front has suddenly sprung up and gone into action in Trenton.

Represented as a spontaneous organization of simple dirt farmers, who were "galled beyond endurance by meddling government" and who want to save "individualism," it seems to have a lot of money to buy expensive full-page and lesser-space ads in the Trenton *Times* to abuse labor, ridicule the Federal income tax, the Administration, high wages and the Office of Price Administration. It says the ads were paid for by "citizens of Trenton" who support the movement.

In the short period since it was incorporated on Mar. 20, it has started its own eight-page newspaper, which takes its name from the organization and appears to be a semi-monthly. Two issues have been printed so far. Numerous pamphlets following the same line have been published.

Leader Is Politician

Its leader is William H. Blackwell, a local Republican politician, and one of its most vociferous members is Fred E. Schluter, head of the Thermoid Co., in Trenton. Schluter's firm is engaged in war work and he is a power in local Republican politics.

In addition to its Trenton office at 9 Ewing St., it maintains an address at the home of Blackwell, at Washington Crossing, N. J.

The organization says it believes that the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter are "international propaganda" and has substituted as its objectives:

¶ "Freedom from racketeering labor leaders." (unidentified).

¶ "Freedom from bureaucracy, red tape and wasteful spending."

¶ "Freedom of enterprise and individual opportunity."

¶ "Freedom of state and local rights from Federal feudalism."

An investigation disclosed that the names of at least two prominent New Jersey citizens are being used in the organization's propaganda, although permission was never given and both men have resigned. A pamphlet, on which both names appear as committee members was handed to me at the outfit's office in Trenton.

'Unscrupulous'

The Mercer County Central Labor Union, AFL, and the Central Industrial Council, CIO, have condemned it as "vague and unscrupulous" in its attacks on labor.

James Kearney, Jr., editor of the Trenton *Times*, whose name is being used, said:

"I have been considerably disturbed by the use of my name. I never attended any of their meetings, but I thought when Four Freedoms started as an organization it was going to fight red tape and bureaucracy. I am in favor of that kind of a fight, but when I saw the direction in which it was going I resigned."

The name of Robert M. Dilatush, Jr., president of the Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market Assn. of Hightstown and an employe of the War Manpower Commission, also is being used without his permission. He publicly announced his resignation, and said:

"For the record I wish to report that I have not attended any meetings of the Four Freedoms Committee since its organization meeting at Washington Crossing; have not been consulted by the committee in any capacity, nor have I authorized the use of my name in any matter related to the committee's activities.

Stops Use of Name

"Under the circumstances, I must insist that no further unauthorized use of my name occur, and that the committee cease to consider me a member of its organization."

Don Guinness, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 4th District, said the organization was a "typical example of election-year smokescreen."

Joseph C. Bowman, assistant secretary of the Four Freedoms on the Home Front, said he didn't know how many members the organization had, but it was made up of "darn good citizens" and was supported entirely by public contributions and subscriptions.

"It is not underwritten by any daddy," he said.

Bowman described himself as a vocational counsellor and said he was formerly head of his own organization Free Enterprise Task Force, with offices at 120 Liberty St., New York, which he dropped to affiliate with the Four Freedoms because he found the principles of both organizations were identical.

He said the Four Freedoms will start chapters all over the country and will be called "committees of correspondence, just as they were formed by farmers who started the revolution."

Bowman insisted that the new "revolution" was intended to be "peaceable."